

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method of using accounting certificates to allow a subscriber of a home network to purchase services and products via a mobile communications network, the method comprising:
 - sending a request for an accounting certificate from a subscriber's mobile terminal to a certificate issuing node in a visited network;
 - upon receipt of the request at said node, sending an authorization request from said node to an online charging system of the subscriber's home network;
 - at the online charging system, returning either an accept or deny service request message for the accounting certificate to said node, based on the subscriber's account data;
 - in the event that an accept service request message is received by said node, sending the requested accounting certificate to the subscriber terminal; and
 - sending the accounting certificate from the subscriber terminal via the mobile communications network to a provider of a product or service to be paid for.
2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said online charging system to which said authorization request is sent is responsible for coordinating all charges made against subscribers of the home network.
3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said certificate issuing node is owned by the operator of an access network used by the subscriber terminal.
4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein the access network is provided by the operator of the subscriber's home network, or by a visited network.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said certificate issuing node comprises a Public Key Infrastructure portal, which uses shared secret keys to communicate with a subscriber terminal.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the Public Key Infrastructure portal communicates with a Bootstrapping Server Function of the subscriber's home network to obtain a shared secret previously agreed between the Bootstrapping Server Function and the subscriber terminal.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein the Public Key Infrastructure portal obtains the shared secret after receiving a request for an accounting certificate from the subscriber terminal.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the Public Key Infrastructure portal communicates with the subscriber's home network to obtain the identity of the responsible online charging system prior to sending said authorization request, or for authorization to issue accounting certificates ~~in principle~~.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the provider of a product or service to be paid for, sends received accounting certificates to said certificate issuing node for settlement.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the online charging system reports previously reserved credit as used and withdrawn, when a service has been delivered and a signed invoice received from the provider of a product or service to be paid for.

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the provider of a product or service sends an invoice to the subscriber terminal for products or services which the subscriber proposes to purchase and, after receipt of this invoice,

the subscriber terminal sends the request for the accounting certificate to the certificate issuing node.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the request for an accounting certificate is sent prior to receipt of the invoice at the terminal.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said accounting certificate is secured by bootstrapping on an authentication and shared secret agreement procedure performed between the mobile terminal and the subscriber's home network.

14. (Currently Amended) A Network Application Function (NAF) node for use in a first network of a mobile communications system, the NAF node having a processor, a main memory coupled to the processor; and persistent storage, having instructions for performing NAF functions, associated with the processor; an interface towards one or more online charging functions, each online charging function coordinating charges for subscribers of a home network to which the online charging function belongs, an interface towards one or more product or service providers, and an interface towards subscribers roaming in said first network wishing to purchase products or services made available by said providers, the NAF node further comprising:

a Public Key Interface (PKI) portal for receiving from a subscriber an accounting certificate request;

the PKI portal for sending an authorization request from said node to an online charging system of the subscriber's home network;

the PKI portal for receiving an accept or deny request from said online charging function; and

the PKI portal for sending the requested accounting certificate to the subscriber terminal in the event that an accept service request message is received by the node.

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